

Iran says 50 PoWs released

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran released 50 ailing or disabled Iraqi prisoners of war Monday to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Tehran Radio reported.

It was not clear whether Iraq would reciprocate and release some of the Iranian PoWs it holds. The radio said the prisoners were released in Tehran to the Red Cross for later repatriation.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying the 50 were being freed "on humanitarian grounds and (in response to) a request from the U.N. secretary general."

It did not say when Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar made the appeal. But Baghdad last week sent a memorandum to the U.N. chief expressing concern over PoWs in Iran after an ICRC report on Dec. 6 that 22 Iraqis had died in jail.

The deaths were attributed to "heart attacks and relevant diseases," but the Iraqi media suggested the prisoners might have been tortured to death.

The Red Cross has registered some 50,000 prisoners held by Iran and more than 19,200 in Iraqi camps. But United Nations officials and diplomats estimate the two sides hold around 100,000 PoWs between them.

The Red Cross secured an agreement to repatriate ailing prisoners immediately after a U.N. ceasefire halted the Gulf war on Aug. 20, 1988.

But the deal collapsed after the repatriation of only 400 disabled and wounded prisoners with both sides accusing each other of falsifying the number of captives who were seeking asylum.

The ICRC's Middle East chief, Angelo Gnadinger, visited Tehran and Baghdad last week seeking a swap of the remaining 1,000 wounded and disabled PoWs held by both sides.

But the mediation collapsed, mainly because Tehran insisted the exchange be coupled with a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from chunks of land they occupied in the final weeks of the Gulf war.

U.N.-sponsored peace talks, launched five days after the Gulf war ceasefire, have been deadlocked mainly over the troop withdrawal issue and Iraq's demand for redemarcation of the border to give it full sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

The channel, a confluence of the Great Tigris and Euphrates rivers, is Iraq's sole outlet to the Gulf. Before the war, the border ran down the middle of Shatt Al Arab.

Jerusalem Post editor resigns

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The editor of Israel's influential Jerusalem Post resigned Tuesday, accusing the publisher appointed by its new Canadian owners of interfering in editorial operations.

Erwin Frenkel, editor since 1975, said in a letter of resignation that he quit because the president and publisher, Yehuda Levy, was seeking effective editorial control of the English-language daily.

Levy was appointed in July by the Toronto-based Hollinger Inc. after it bought the Post. He promised staff he would not interfere with the paper's dovish line, backing down from public remarks that right-wing views should receive wider coverage.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Peres postpones Moscow visit

TEL AVIV (AP) — Vice-premier Shimon Peres has unexpectedly postponed a trip to Moscow that was planned for Jan. 2, an official said Tuesday. Peres, who is also finance minister and heads the Labour Party, was to have been the highest ranking Israeli to visit the Soviet Union in at least two decades. No future date was set for the trip, said an official in Peres' office who spoke on condition of anonymity. The official said the reason for the postponement was the minister's preparations to win parliamentary approval for a controversial budget proposal for fiscal 1990 and because there were no final schedule set for Peres' meetings in Moscow. The Yediot Ahronot daily indicated Peres sought the delay because he had failed to set up a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet Union broke diplomatic ties with Israel during the 1967 war but has gradually restored relations in the past three years. The two countries have exchanged low-level diplomatic representatives in the past two years.

Iran says it may again boycott haj

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Tuesday it might boycott the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for a third successive year. The official news agency IRNA quoted Hajatolislam Imam Jamarani, head of the haj (pilgrimage) and Endowments Organisation, as saying the boycott would stay unless Riyadh changed what he called its "anti-Islamic attitude." Jamarani cited the deaths of more than 400 people, mainly Iranians, in clashes between demonstrators and Saudi Arabian security forces during the 1987 pilgrimage, said IRNA, monitored in Cyprus. Speaking at a news conference, he also condemned Saudi Arabia's execution of 16 Kuwaitis for planting bombs in Mecca during the pilgrimage in July this year. Iran has objected to a haj quota of 45,000 Iranian pilgrims endorsed by the Organisation of Islamic Conference and says it should be allowed to send at least 150,000. The dispute over the pilgrimage was a major reason for a break in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Ethiopian rebels claim Shoa attacks

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Ethiopia said Tuesday they killed, wounded or captured 1,066 government troops when they seized the towns of Rabel and Mehal Meda in Shoa province last week. Giving details of attacks it first reported last week, the clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said 350 troops were killed or wounded and 311 captured in the seizure of Rabel, 200 kilometres northeast of the capital Addis Ababa. The radio, monitored in Nairobi, said 280 troops were killed or wounded and 125 captured in the attack on nearby Mehal Meda. The radio, which did not detail rebel losses, said large quantities of weaponry were seized during the attacks. On Monday, the TPLF radio said the rebels killed more than 1,800 government troops in three days of heavy fighting last week around the town of Debre Tabor in Gondar province, beating off an army offensive. The TPLF and its small ally the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement control the whole of northern Tigray province and since the end of August have pushed south to capture large areas of Gondar, Wollo and Shoa provinces. They have waged 14 years of civil war with the government. The TPLF rebels first took up arms in 1975 to topple the Soviet-backed government of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Algerian party drops old-guard leaders

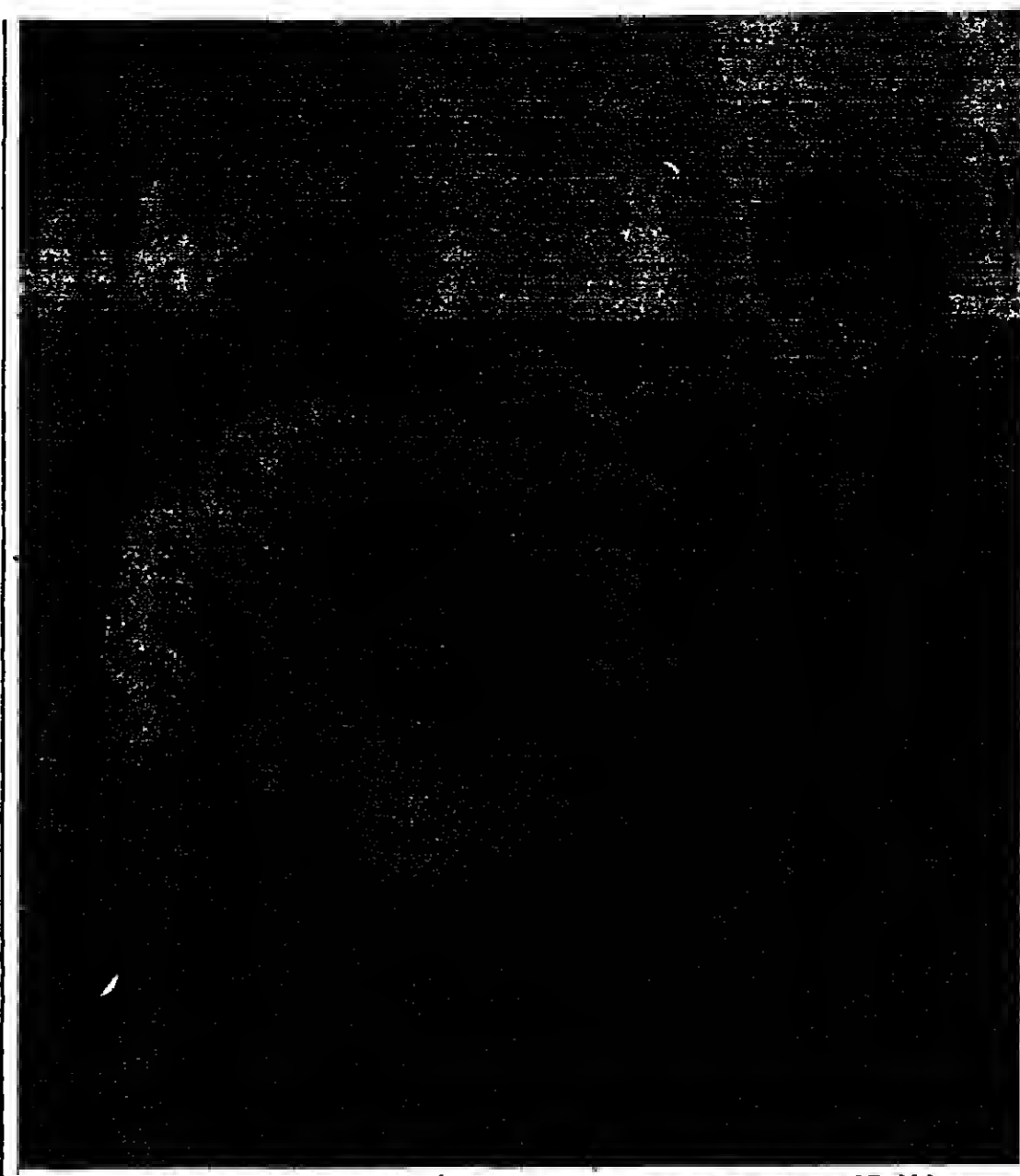
ALGIERS (R) — Veteran politicians were excluded from the leadership of the ruling Algerian FLN party Monday when its politburo was elected by a large majority, the official news agency APS said. Diplomats said the new decision-making politburo confirmed President Chadli Benjedid's decision to liberalise the Algerian political system when he began political and economic reforms after widespread rioting in October 1988. The National Liberation Front (FLN), which has ruled Algeria in a one-party system since independence in 1961, is now one of over 30 political parties authorised by an amended constitution introduced by Chadli. The party's central committee elected a 15-member politburo and re-elected Abdul Hamid Mehri as party secretary-general. The new politburo comprises Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche and four members of the government, but none of the old-guard party leaders who helped run the country during the late President Houari Boumedienne's term of office. APS quoted Mehri as saying the new politburo would press ahead with the reforms designed to end dogmatic socialist policies in force since independence. Benjedid told the central committee the FLN "must take into account the country's new realities" as one of several parties and that Algeria was living through a period which required the party to consider the experience of other political movements.

Israel jails Arab for life

LOD (R) — Israel jailed an Arab for life Monday after he pleaded guilty to commanding a group which hurled a hand grenade into a crowded shopping street in the city of Haifa, wounding 25 people. Samir Sarsawi, 22 from Ibtin village, told the military court that he was recruited by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah faction in Egypt in 1987. Sarsawi, who said he took orders from PLO handlers in Hungary, was accused of planning the grenade attack in Haifa in August 1988 and of driving the get-away car. Five other Arabs have been convicted in connection with the attack. The man who threw the grenade was jailed for life. Prosecutors also accused Sarsawi's group of several firebomb attacks on Israeli cars and of planning to kill former Army Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan, who directed the Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and is now a right-wing parliamentarian.

Iran seizes 112 kg of heroin

Iranian Revolutionary Guards seized 112 kg of heroin and arrested 24 smugglers in a series of raids in western Iran, the national news agency said Tuesday. IRNA, received in Nicosia, said the haul had a street value of \$7 million. Iran, which officially admits to having one million drug addicts, lies on a narcotics-smuggling route from Afghanistan and Pakistan. It has executed more than 900 drug traffickers this year.



BLEAK CHRISTMAS: Israeli soldiers equipped with gear to counter protests patrol Bethlehem on Christmas Eve.

Blow killed Shin Bet detainee — pathologist

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — An American pathologist has said that a Palestinian in the custody of the Shin Bet secret service died of internal bleeding after a blow to the abdomen.

The injury could not have been accidental or self-inflicted, said Michael Baden, director of forensic sciences for the New York state police.

Baden represented civil rights groups and the family of 27-year-old Khalid Kameel Sheikh Ali at the six-hour autopsy Sunday.

"One case like this is an alarm. Two cases like this would be a red alarm," Baden said Monday at a news conference in the offices of Al Haq, a human rights group based in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank.

The autopsy report came in the wake of growing concern over the treatment of prisoners in the custody of the Shin Bet secret service.

The families of two other Palestinians who died in Shin Bet custody have requested investigations. One was said to have died after a severe ulcer attack; the other hanged himself, according to police reports.

Baden said Ali had about one litre of blood in his abdominal cavity at the time of the autopsy. A blow to the abdomen caused a rupture of the mesentery, or lining around the intestine, which triggered internal bleeding.

"It would not be an inadvertent blow. It has to be a large amount of force used... and he could not have done it to himself," said Baden, 55, who joined an Israeli pathologist for the autopsy at the request of the U.S. Physicians for Human Rights Organisation.

"The type of injury he had could not be from an accidental fall," he added.

Baden said the blow was from a "broad, blunt object, that would include a fist or a shoe," and that there was evidence of other, non-fatal bruises to the back, legs,

chest and testes. He said there was a "suggestion of finger marks" on Ali's abdomen.

Baden and Israeli pathologist Yehuda Hiss questioned five security officers at Gaza prison, who told them that no force was used during Ali's 50-minute interrogation. Baden said they were told that at the end of the interview, Ali stood up and collapsed, hitting his head on a doorjamb.

"It's the kind of injury you see more often in battered children. It's an unusual type of injury in an adult," he said. "My opinion is that the blow was not inadvertent, but the outcome was."

Court martial

Meanwhile the Israeli army Monday announced plans to court-martial an Israeli colonel accused of ordering troops to break the bones of a group of bound and gagged Palestinian prisoners.

The action follows a unanimous supreme court ruling Sunday that overturned an army decision not to prosecute Yehuda Meir. He will be the highest ranking officer to face trial during the two-year Palestinian uprising.

The military revealed Monday that army chief prosecutor Amnon Straschnow decided last week to indict an unidentified colonel for firing plastic bullets in violation of army orders and fatally wounding a 15-year-old Gazan five months ago.

Meir's trial is expected to touch off a sharp debate over the military's orders concerning the beating of Palestinians.

The independent Maariv newspaper, quoting military sources, said Straschnow may resign after the supreme court overturned his decision not to prosecute Meir.

The court was critical of Straschnow's ruling that Meir's dismissal from the army was adequate punishment.

Meir was reprimanded by Dan

Shomron, the armed forces chief of staff, for the January 1988 incident and given the choice of leaving the army or standing trial. Meir resigned in April but retains his pension rights.

Straschnow said it would have been difficult to try Meir because the army's orders on the use of force were "foggy."

Testimony in trials of other soldiers showed that at the time army orders allowed soldiers to beat stone throwers to deter further acts. The orders have since been changed to ban such beatings.

In accepting an appeal by four Palestinians and the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, supreme court justice Moshe Bejsky wrote:

"Can we talk at all about 'lack of clarity or foggy' when we are speaking about orders to take people out of their homes, to tie their arms, to gag them, to beat them with sticks to break their arms and legs?"

"Actions of this type are condemned by every civilised person and no lack of clarity or fog can cover them," Bejsky wrote.

Justice Yaakov Kadmi wrote that Meir's orders to beat bound Palestinian detainees "stands in complete contradiction to the basic foundations of the nation of Israel."

Meir, who served as military commander of Nablus, the largest town in the West Bank, is accused of ordering troops to beat and break the legs of 20 bound and gagged Palestinians from the nearby towns of Hawara and Beita.

Soldiers under his command left beaten and bound Palestinians in a field until other Arabs arrived and rushed them to a hospital.

He was also investigated in connection with an incident in which troops beat two Palestinian teenagers in Nablus. The incident was filmed by a U.S. television crew.

Israelis attack Communist base in S. Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers backed by tanks and helicopter gunships destroyed a guerrilla base in a pre-dawn thrust into southeast Lebanon Tuesday. Police said two guerrillas were killed and three wounded.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said three guerrillas initially reported missing were found unharmed.

The spokesman said the base at Nabi Safi, in the foothills of Mount Hermon, 12 kilometres north of Israel's self-designated border "security zone," was manned by the Lebanese Communist Party.

It was Israel's heaviest military operation in Lebanon since an action against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) Dec. 9, 1988.

Israeli officials identified the site of attack as a base of the Communist Party headed by George Hawi, used "for organising and launching attacks on the Israeli army and South Lebanon Army (SLA)," which is an Israeli-backed Lebanese militia.

The army earlier erroneously identified the base as belonging to the Palestinian Communist Party. But officials noted that Palestinian guerrillas often cooperate with the Lebanese Communists in attacking Israeli targets.

The attack force of 100 commandos pushed out from the "security zone," occupied by the Israelis since 1985, in four tanks and eight armoured personnel carriers at 2 a.m. (midnight GMT) behind a massive artillery barrage, police reported.

The attackers stormed through the village of Kfar Meshki and Lebaya, in the eastern Bekaa Valley after two helicopter gunships blasted them with eight rockets, destroying many houses, the spokesman said.

Forty other commandos were then dropped by helicopters near Nabi Safi, where they blew up the Communist two-storey compound after raking the base with machine gun fire, the spokesman added.

He said the attackers pulled back into the "security zone" shortly after 6 a.m. (0200 GMT).

An Israeli military communiqué said the assault force was made up of paratroopers, with anti-aircraft and armour support.

Artillery batteries manned by the mainly Christian SLA, which operates in the "security zone" with the Israelis, bombarded Nabi Safi, Kfar Meshki and Lebaya for three hours after the raiders pulled out.

It was not known if there were any Israeli casualties. The Israeli military communiqué said they were none.

But a Communist Party statement in Beirut said: "The enemy suffered heavy losses in lives and ammunition at the hands of our heroes who fought hand-to-hand to repulse the attack."

The statement said that two Communist fighters were killed and two wounded.

There was no immediate report of casualties among villagers near Kfar Meshki and Lebaya.

The two villages along with Nabi Safi have long been used by the Communists and several other leftist Lebanese armed groups.

Palestinian guerrilla factions have launched attacks on the Israeli "security zone."

The Israeli-allied SLA militia has come under a series of bombings and rocket attacks in South Lebanon in the past month. The 3,000-member militia helps the Israelis patrol the four-to-20 kilometre wide "security zone."

Israel established the zone in 1985 after ending a three-year occupation of South Lebanon. Reports say up to 1,000 Israeli soldiers still patrol the zone.

Iran recognises new Romanian leadership, sacks Bucharest envoy

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran recognised Romania's new government Tuesday and dismissed Tehran's ambassador in Bucharest for failing to advise the government of the scale of opposition to Romania's late president, Nicolae Ceausescu, before he visited Iran Dec. 18.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the Foreign Ministry announced recognition of the Council of the National Salvation Committee in Bucharest in a statement.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry is certain that the two nations' ties will continue, and that after the establishment of the popular government in Romania, these relations will expand," the statement said.

The ministry also informed the Romanian ambassador in Tehran that Iran's Red Crescent Society is ready to send medical aid to Bucharest to help thousands of people wounded in the fighting that toppled Ceausescu, the radio reported.

Earlier, the official Islamic Republic News Agency, also monitored in Cyprus, quoted the Foreign Ministry's director-general for press affairs, Mohammad Hassan Qadiri, as saying ambassador Mohammad Jamshid Gohari was sacked on the orders of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

IRNA said Gohari was dismissed for failing to give the Foreign Ministry an accurate picture of the situation in Romania before Ceausescu arrived in Iran Dec. 18.

Gohari was sacked Monday on the orders of Velayati, IRNA's top ministry spokesman said. He had completed all but the last three months of his assignment in Bucharest.

Several Iranian newspapers strongly criticised the Foreign Ministry for allowing Ceausescu to visit, saying Tehran's revolutionary image would be harmed if it was friendly with governments that were hated by their own people.

A popular uprising against Ceausescu began hours before he arrived in Tehran on a pre-arranged official visit. He returned to Bucharest Wednesday, was overthrown Friday and executed by Romania's new leaders Monday.

IRNA said Ceausescu had received a cold reception in Tehran and supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had called off a planned meeting with him.

He met President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who termed Ceausescu's visit "successful" and noted that the grounds for economic cooperation were "completely fertile."

After Ceausescu left and reports from Romania underlined the brutality of his regime as the mass graves of victims of his secret police were uncovered, Iranian newspapers demanded an official explanation why the Romanian leader had been allowed to visit Tehran.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo news message
18:30	Local programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Arabic programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:40	Play "Petra"
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Perfecto
18:30	L'Appart
18:35	News in French
19:15	Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Empty Nest
21:10	Game, Set and Match
22:00	News in English
22:30	A Very British Coup
PRAYER TIMES	
05:47	Fajr
06:29	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:37	Dhuhr
14:21	'Asr
16:44	Maghrib
18:06	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetlik.	

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15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review

Jordan-Iraq higher panel meets today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan arrives in Amman Wednesday at the head of an Iraqi delegation to take part in the Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Committee, which will start here Wednesday. Ramadan will also attend the opening ceremony of the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) general secretariat premises.

The Jordanian side to the joint committee meeting will be headed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The committee meets annually in Amman and Baghdad by rotation.

To prepare for the committee's meeting, a technical committee held a meeting in Amman Monday and reviewed Jordanian-Iraqi relations in the various fields.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Al Saqqaf and Iraqi Central Bank Counsellor Abdul Wahid Al Mahzoumi. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Saqqaf said the volume of trade between Iraq and Jordan and relations in transport, health affairs and agriculture could figure high in the committee's meeting.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING, BUSH DISCUSS ISSUES: His Majesty King Hussein Monday exchanged views over the phone with the United States President George Bush on developments in the international arena. King Hussein expressed his best wishes to President Bush and the American people on Christmas. (Petra)

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES THANKS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday received a cable of thanks from participants in a symposium on the experiences of Arab countries in census, which was held in Amman from Dec. 19 to Dec. 21. The participants noted the support Jordan provides for the efforts made by Arab countries to advance statistical work and population censuses. (Petra)

PSD SPORTS CELEBRATION: Deputising for the Public Security Department (PSD) director, his assistant for traffic and foreign affairs, Brigadier Muayyad Mubaslat, who is also chairman of the administrative committee of the Police Sports Association, Tuesday attended a major celebration held at the World of Sports Centre to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. Addressing the celebration, Mubaslat stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between the centre and the PSD in promoting constructive sports. At the end of the celebration, Mubaslat presented belts to graduates from two taekwondo and judo courses and awards to the PSD champions who won the first and second ranks in a marathon held recently in Spain. The celebration was attended by the director of the Royal Police Academy and other senior PSD officials. (Petra)

POCKETS OF POVERTY: Ministry of Social Development's Secretary General Mohammad Al Suqour Tuesday said that Jordan had gone a long way on the path of providing educational, health, water, electric and communication services. In a lecture he delivered at Mu'ta University's faculty of administrative sciences, Suqour spoke about the pockets of poverty in Jordan and outlined the socio-economic characteristics of the low-income families and their location. Suqour cited a study undertaken by the ministry which called for increasing the volume of investments and for finding job opportunities, developing agricultural projects. (Petra)

JORDAN-INDIA TIES: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Tuesday discussed with the Indian ambassador to Jordan bilateral relations and issues pertaining to the exchange of visits and expertise between Parliamentarians from both countries. The Indian ambassador called at Arar's office to congratulate him on his election of the House's speaker. On Monday Arar received congratulations from the Tunisian, Egyptian and Qatari ambassadors to Jordan. (Petra)

DLDNA EXHIBITION: Culture Minister Khalid Al Karaki Tuesday opened at the Department of Libraries, National Archives and Documentation (DLDNA) an exhibition of photographs. The event is held by the department to mark the National Documentation and Archives Week. It includes photographs of the late Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali and his sons Prince Ali, Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal and Prince Zaid. The photos also depict main events of the Great Arab Revolt. On the occasion, a symposium entitled "Documents and Intellectual Trends of the Great Arab Revolt" was held. The main speakers at the symposium were Jordanian historian Sulaiman Al Mousa, Mamdouh Rousan, and Suhaila Rimawi. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Arji Al Hamad and Ibrahim Nabulsi at the University of Jordan.
- * The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) youths art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Iyad Al Masri and Qasem Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * An art exhibition by Shaker Abu Ghazaleh at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- * A graphic art exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

Martial law powers limited

(Continued from page 1)

— Violation of combatting communism law number 91 of 1953.

— Affiliation or officially belonging to a political party whether licensed or banned.

— Violation of the defence law or any branch law stemming from the jurisdiction of the defence law.

— Attacking government employees or officers and members of the Arab army or police and impeding them from carrying out their official duties.

— Violation of orders issued by the military governor or any of his subordinates.

— Firing arms in populated areas of the Kingdom, even with a licensed weapon, on the occasion of workdays as stipulated in Article 461 of the Penal Law.

— Forgery of banknotes or stamps associated with counterfeit.

— Crimes stipulated in Part A of the passport law (this law deals with forgery of passports or selling them).

— Crimes of murder and manslaughter for revenge.

— Violation of martial law or its directives.

— Crimes described in articles 187, 326, 328, 327, 330, 333 and 335 of the punishment law.

— Crimes described in articles 16, 17, 18 of the supply law number 28 of 1988 and its amendments.

The Cabinet's statement added that other crimes punishable by martial courts "such as the country's security, embezzling public funds, bribes as well as martial directives regarding economic, financial and currency crimes, will be studied by a special ministerial committee."

The committee, according to the statement, will present suggestions for dealing with effects of cancelling martial authority completely as well as treating legal centres which came into being as a result of martial laws. The Cabinet gave the committee two months.

The committee will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister, and the ministers of finance and justice as well as Central Bank governor and the legal advisor at the Prime Ministry.



Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday meets with delegations representing various districts (Petra photo)

Delegations congratulate Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday received delegations representing Tafleeh governorate, Jarash district and Butoush family from Karak which called at the Prime Ministry to congratulate him on his appointment as prime minister.

The delegations members, who were accompanied by Lower House members Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh and Issa Al Rimni, voiced pride in and allegiance to the Hashemite leadership and pledged full support and participation to achieve the noble objectives defined by the country's leadership.

They noted that "the atmosphere of democracy and responsible freedom is a starting point for a new era." They expressed hope that Jordan, "despite its limited resources and the difficult circumstances it is passing through, will further its passing through, will further its achievements and will serve as an example in the Arab region."

Replying to the delegations, Badran stressed that his government was determined to enhance cooperation with the legislative authority and would ensure the highest degree of consultation and participation in an atmosphere of openness and freedom.

He added that the government would discharge the duties entrusted to it in the best manner and overcome the obstacles facing the country.

Badran also received delegations from Ajloun and Ramtha districts and notables and tribal heads from Karak, Tafleeh and Amman governorates, who congratulated him on his appointment.

Badran also discussed scopes of coordination and cooperation between Jordan and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) general secretariat with ACC Secretary General Hilmi Nammer, who called at the Prime Ministry to congratulate Badran.

Jordan, Egypt seek to boost youth cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Youth Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh Tuesday received an Egyptian delegation taking part in the first youth gathering of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) member states and reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Egypt in sports and youth affairs.

Ghababsheh stressed the importance of enhancing cooperation among the youth in the four ACC countries in particular and among Arab youth in general.

Participants in the gathering also listened to a lecture on the history of the Arab Nation, delivered by Abdul Aziz Al Douiri from the University of Jordan.

Douiri reviewed the historical stages of the Arab Nation and outlined the factors affecting the Arab personality, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. Douiri stressed the role of Islam in demonstrating the bright cultural face of the Arab Nation and noted the great scientific, philosophical and intellectual contributions that Muslim scholars and intellectuals have made to the world.

On Monday, participants had an open dialogue on scopes of cooperation among the three Arab countries — the ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union.

ACC Assistant Secretary General Hisham Hassan Tawfiq briefed participants on the ACC's establishment and objectives. He pointed out that the ACC was designed to counter external challenges facing the ACC member states and to cope with the latest developments. Tawfiq noted that the ACC was established on an economic basis to face the population growth in the ACC countries and to utilise natural resources and crude material in these countries with a view to achieving comprehensive development. The Tunisian ambassador to Jordan briefed participants on the objectives of the Arab Maghreb Union.



PALESTINE FOLKLORE EXHIBITION: Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar Tuesday opened the Palestinian folklore exhibition, organised by Amman Community College, as a gesture of solidarity with people in the occupied Arab territories on the occasion of the second anniversary of the intifada. The week-long exhibition includes traditional Palestinian dresses, embroidery, handicrafts, artistic plates, photographs and posters. It also includes a book corner, stickers and tape and video cassettes. (Petra)

House panel begins probe into student clashes at Yarmouk

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A parliamentary panel charged with investigating student clashes at the University of Yarmouk held its first meeting Tuesday. The seven-member panel made up of members of the Lower House, met with 14 students who were involved in the clashes. The students, some of whom had been arrested and released after the incidents, submitted their testimonies while deputies posed questions concerning the incidents in a session lasting five hours.

Students said they hoped that the parliamentary investigation would lead to administrative reforms in the university.

"We are confident that the deputies are very concerned about what happened in Yarmouk last week and earlier and we are sure they realise the tension and mistrust that exists between the deanship of student affairs and the students," said one of the students. We gave them the facts and are sure that they will act upon their findings. We were welcomed by them in a very sincere and earnest manner."

Deputies serving on the special panel said that it was too early to make any comment, but that they had received statements from the students and plan to carry out further investigation into the causes of the unrest which has plagued the University of Yarmouk in particular in the past. Student unrest resulted in the death of three students at the university in 1986 when students and security forces clashed.

The clashes last week took place during a week of cultural activities held to commemorate the second anniversary of the Palestinian intifada. Students were beaten by rival students and an exhibition of Palestinian arts was slashed with knives and torn apart. Although some reports said that the clashes pitted Jordanian students of East Bank origin against those of West Bank origin, many students who spoke to the Jordan Times said it was not so.

In a very busy week for parliamentarians, who are scheduled to take a "vote of confidence in the government of Mudar Badran, Saturday, two of the legislative body's four permanent committees met Monday and Tuesday to begin discussions and investigations of pressing matters at hand. The temporary appeals committee also met Tuesday to begin hearings of complaints and appeals pertaining to alleged errors made during the Nov. 8 elections.

A two-and-a-half hour discussion of administrative matters highlighted the first meeting of the 20-member Legal Committee on Christmas Day — Monday. The panel, chaired by Deputy Hussein Mujalli, has to study 65 laws. The committee decided not to debate the laws by their respective dates of submission as had been done by previous Parliaments. They would be debated based on urgency. Some laws may need change immediately "for the good of the citizen," said one committee member. The committee is scheduled to meet again next Monday.

Issues pertaining to Jordanians of Palestinian origin, who are holders of the West Bank residence "green card" and citizens originating from the Gaza Strip were discussed by the Administrative Committee in a meeting attended by Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Interior Saleh Hamad. The deputies were briefed on the legal and administrative implications of the disengagement on those now holding a West Bank residence permit. The committee also discussed efforts to look into government management and alleged mismanagement in the last decade. The Finance Committee, which met last week, has already asked government offices for their financial statements dating from 1979-1989, said one committee member.

The appeals committee heard testimonies by parliamentary candidates from the Ajloun district who charged that errors in counting or administrative errors such as misspelling of names had resulted in their loss in the Nov. 8 elections. Panel members said that investigations had not yet begun.

Amman agrees to ease restrictions on W. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has agreed to Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) requests to ease restrictions on the movement of people and goods from the Israeli-occupied West Bank to Jordan, officials quoted by Reuters said Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Saleh Mas'adeh was earlier quoted as saying that Jordan would review the aftermath of its disengagement with the West Bank 18 months ago after 38 years of unity.

"We shall study all repercussions that followed Jordan's decision to sever (legal and administrative) ties with the West Bank and will take measures to ease any hardships that affected people on a human or personal level," Mas'adeh told the Arabic-language daily Al-Dustour.

His remarks followed a visit to Amman last week by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"During talks with Arafat, the government expressed its will to abolish measures that are complicating matters for our people in the occupied land," PLO executive committee member Mohammed Milhem was quoted by Reuters as saying.

Mas'adeh said the government would extend the duration of Jordanian passports given to West Bankers and would take new measures to ease the movement of West Bankers and Gazans and farm produce into Jordan.

After the disengagement, Amman began issuing temporary Jordanian passports to people in the West Bank. The passports valid for two years instead of the previous five, enabled people to travel but not to qualify for Jordanian citizenship.

Jordan used to buy almost half the West Bank's agricultural output, mainly olive oil and citrus, and also gave help to marketing it abroad.

After the break, it told West Bankers it would only buy their products according to the needs of the Jordanian market, although it continued to issue certificates of origin for West Bank agricultural and industrial products.

The Director of the Interior Ministry's Follow-up and Inspection Department, Mohammad Odwan, said the department facilitates the passage of West Bankers and Gazans while giving special consideration to humanitarian aspects. He pointed out that the department facilitates the entry of injured or wounded for medical treatment in hospitals in Jordan. He added that the department allows temporary residence to those married to women living on the East Bank and who do not have permits and dependents of those living in Jordan.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Aaahh!

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AMMAN, JORDAN

Jordan Times

An independent Arab print daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

الجزيرة الأردنية اليومية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل المؤسسة الأردنية للصحافة
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Missed opportunities and lost lives

WITH the elimination of the last remnants of opposition to the Romanian uprising and the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena, the nightmare in Romania is over. The loss of lives of tens of thousands of Romanians in the bloody revolt dampens a bit the joy of the success of the magnificent Romanian revolution but does not change its eternal message; the success of people's insurgency against great odds in overthrowing tyranny and slavery, both intellectual, political and economic; not to mention the religious deprivation that Romanians have had to endure under Ceausescu's reign of terror.

The moral of the Romanian story is simple and precise: No matter how tight is the pressure cooker, it is bound to explode when the pressure becomes unbearable and prolonged. The leadership in Romania had many opportunities to learn from and comprehend the many repeated lessons of history but chose instead to ignore them in arrogant defiance in the false belief that what applies elsewhere will never apply to them. The self-defeating confidence that with a mighty internal security machinery, all will remain under control forever also led the Romanian leadership astray and into a blind alley. Instead of cultivating harmonious relations with the people of Romania and making a stronger and more determined effort to win their understanding and support, the Romanian leadership selected to go over and above them; thinking all the time that their reliance on might will indefinitely assure them places at the helm. It would have been that much more simpler and wiser had the Romanian leadership communicated with their people through an elected parliament. They had brilliant events all around them that told stories about the intimate and inevitable triumph of wisdom, fairness and common sense over slavery and iron-fisted rule but it chose to ignore them as if nothing is happening in its very backyard. The recent examples of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and East Germany should have given them food for thought. Alas, nothing penetrated their minds and hearts and they continued instead their reign of terror unaltered by the events and changes that have swept through the entire European continent.

But at last there was euphoria in Romania yet tinged with grief over the loss of so many Romanian lives which could have been spared just as that of the Romanian leaders could have been spared if the repeated lessons of history were appreciated and understood. The big question that remains is whether the remaining pockets of slavery elsewhere in the world would be the last lesson of Romania and start doing something tangible and sensible to start the process of communication with their respective peoples. Unfortunately, the odds are still against them doing so because the history of mankind is full of stories of missed opportunities.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday discussed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, describing it as one that represented the wind of change which has been sweeping Eastern Europe and other parts of the world over in 1989. The paper said as the Europeans are struggling to rebuild their continent and to unify their nations, the Palestinians have been busily fighting the occupation forces with all available means and have been offering a huge sacrifice and continuing to face suffering and tragedies. World leaders have been unanimous in their support for the Palestinian people, expressing their admiration of the oppressed people's courage and steadfastness as they watch defenceless men and women struggling for their freedom and independence, said the paper. But it added, that the time has come now for the world community to come to the aid of the Palestinian people in word and deed. We are awaiting assistance by the world community and support for our struggle. We are awaiting for solidarity with the Arab people of Palestine, the paper urged. It said that support and backing for the Palestinians is support for victory of justice over all the forces of evil.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily praised Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa who has been visiting the occupied Arab territories and voicing the support of the black people of Africa for the rights of the Palestinian people. Abdul Rahman Omar said that Tutu likened the Palestinians to the black people of South Africa who are also struggling for freedom. Tutu expressed his staunch support for the creation of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil and an end to occupation. The writer said that the colonialists including the white South Africans and the Israelis form an alliance designed to suppress the wishes of the oppressed people under their rule, while the Africans, the Palestinians and other oppressed peoples form an undeclared alliance to confront injustice and tyranny. With the continuing sweep of the winds of change in all parts of the world, the liberation movements in Africa and Palestine are bound to receive further backing and support and are bound to achieve their aspirations, the writer added. He said that Desmond Tutu's statements in Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied lands he visited, clearly manifest the solidarity of peace-loving people around the world with the Palestinians, and their backing for their legitimate rights.

Al Dastour Arabic daily paper warned all dictators around the world that the day will come when they will be facing the fate of Nicolae Ceausescu who had ruled his people with repression and tyranny for more than two decades. The paper said that with the success of the uprising in Romania and the execution of the dictator, the Romanian people are bound to enter a new era of democracy and restructuring. The people of Romania struggled for so long and so hard to rid themselves of oppression and tyranny, but there are other people around the globe who are plagued by regimes no less oppressive and ruled by dictators who established their rule with repressive and criminal means, the paper said. It said what happened to the tyrant in Bucharest should serve as a lesson for all dictators elsewhere as there is no force that can stand in the path of the democracy movement that will sweep everything in its way and end injustice.

Stalin built fortress collapses from failures

Editor's note — The ouster of Romania's hard-line Communist regime caps five months of political upheaval that rocked Eastern Europe. The events demonstrated the Kremlin's new attitude toward countries it once treated like virtual satellites.

By John Thor Dahlburg
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — It was the fortress Stalin built, from the Baltic to the Adriatic. It held some 100 million human souls. Last week its last bastion fell, stormed by hundreds of thousands of Romanians enraged by Nicolae Ceausescu's tyranny.

A new order in Europe, in the making through 40 years of repression and economic failure, suddenly is being born with the blessing and connivance of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In the 19th century, another European who thought in continent-wide terms, the French Emperor Napoleon, dreamed of a "continental system" to integrate the territory he conquered from Spain to Russia. The philosophical father of Communism, Karl Marx, predicted a proletarian revolution would sweep Europe.

Now Gorbachev, one of Marx's ideological heirs, preaches the creation of a "common European home" where after years of Kremlin domination, the nations of Eastern Europe will be virtually free to pursue policies they set themselves.

The fundamental changes of 1989 mean that the five East Bloc countries must set up new governments, reorganize economies and begin to work out what kinds of relations they will have with the Soviet Union, what ties will be forged with Western countries. The events in East Germany raise the special issue of a reunified Germany in the heart of

Europe. Gorbachev's vision supplants agreements by the World War II allies that led to the continent's division into East and West after the defeat of Nazi Germany.

For more than four decades, with the Red Army serving as its gendarme, Soviet-style Communism reigned in Eastern Europe from the Bug River on the Soviet-Polish border to the German City of Weimar, where Bach wrote his great fugues. Europe seemed immutably divided into Socialist and Capitalist camps.

The West set up NATO to deal with any military threat, and the members of the Communist Bloc formed the Warsaw Pact.

The schism of Europe had its hated symbol, the Berlin Wall. It made concrete Winston Churchill's famed rhetoric in 1946 when he told students at a small college in Missouri that "from Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent."

True, there were rifts in that curtain — when Yugoslavia in the late 1940s and later Albania successfully rebelled against Moscow's domination. But the most stunning changes awaited the advent of Gorbachev and the whirlwind year of 1989.

Beginning in August, hard-line regimes were ousted in Poland, Bulgaria, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and finally Romania. Roman Catholic Tadeusz Mazowiecki became Poland's first non-Communist premier since World War II. Czechoslovakia's new govern-

ment is no longer Communist-dominated, and Hungary's parliament has approved democratic, multiparty elections next year.

In Berlin, millions of East Germans have poured through newly cut breaches in the wall, personifying the growing symbiosis between East and West. Berliners sang and danced with joy Friday night when an opening was made in the 28-year-old wall near the Brandenburg Gate, long a symbol of Germany's division.

Though the brutal security forces that kept Ceausescu in power for 24 years were fighting back across Romania, killing hundreds, it was clearly the culminating act of a revolution that may deprive the term "Soviet Bloc" of any meaning.

The five months that remade politics in Eastern Europe passed with breathtaking speed. With Gorbachev in power, leaders in Czechoslovakia's Milos Jakes and Bulgaria's Todor Zhivkov, who bankrupted themselves by failing to meet human or economic needs, could no longer count on Kremlin support.

Without that backing, unpopular Communists had to compromise with the people, or give up power.

In 1942, Josef Stalin raged that the Nazis had "turned Europe into a prison of nations." But it was the Soviet dictator, his army and his political disciples who would subjugate Central Europe and its inhabitants after driving out the German invaders.

In a sense, revolt began a month after Stalin's death. On April morning in 1953, East Berlin construction workers from the Stalinallee site went on strike over pay cuts. Within 48 hours the protests spread throughout the city, with demonstrators

chanting, "we want to be free and not slaves." Mobs tried to take over government headquarters.

The Soviet army commandant in Berlin proclaimed a state of siege and two motorized divisions occupied the city. Protesters who were caught were executed. Order was restored by 9 p.m., and the Red Army moved to crush worker revolts in Leipzig, Dresden and elsewhere.

The scenario was repeated in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968. But in 1989, when East German leader Erich Honecker's rule was menaced by a popular uprising, Soviet troops remained in their barracks, and Honecker was deposed on Oct. 18.

It was renewed proof of Gorbachev's professed unwillingness to meddle in the internal affairs of his allies, as well as a way of getting rid of an old guard Communist who rejected much of his reform agenda.

The Soviets stress the countries they once treated as virtual provinces of their own nation must remain in the Warsaw Pact, meaning Europe's "age of the blocs" is not yet over, at least militarily.

But with non-Communist leaders seeking a mix of capitalism and socialism to better their citizens' lives, the East-West ideological schism is dying.

The Soviets' preoccupation with their own pressing economic and nationalistic problems makes the new order possible.

In a nutshell, we need a normal external environment for our domestic work," Gorbachev said in October.

By opening to the West, he also hopes to counter the technological obsolescence that now menaces the East by encouraging

injections of capitalist know-how and money.

Since becoming Soviet leader in March 1985, Gorbachev has repudiated Stalin's heritage of political terror and centralized control. But it was only this year he showed how far he was willing to deviate from past Kremlin practice in dealing with the allies, and to risk Soviet geopolitical gains.

Victory in World War II over Nazi Germany brought the Red Army into the heart of Central Europe, where it occupied the capitals of 10 countries, from Berlin to Sofia. It retook the Polish Ukraine, seized Rutenia from Czechoslovakia, and forced Romania to relinquish Bessarabia.

That triumph erased the consequences of 1917, when the Bolsheviks were forced to swap territory for peace, and restored the western facade of Russia that from Peter the Great to Alexander I, the czars had built up over two centuries.

The Communists were numerically few in postwar Central Europe, but their weakness was compensated by the prestige they gained as leaders of the anti-Nazi resistance, and by the tanks and regiments of the occupying Red Army. To augment their influence, Communists opted to create coalitions.

In the new governments, Moscow's allies settled for a few industries, but chose them with care: Interior, police, justice. The gained access to dossiers, and forces they could use later to compromise and purge their political enemies.

Coalitions of democratic forces had reigned in liberated Eastern Europe in 1945. By 1949, the Soviet Union, which had no allies

before the war, was flanked by eight "people's democracies," and many Communists predicted the red tide would keep rising. Only Yugoslavia shook free of the Soviets, with leader Josip Broze Tito accusing Stalin of camouflaging colonialist aims with Marxist-Leninist slogans.

This subjugation of small peoples has only one goal, "Tito declared, "and this goal is certainly not world revolution, but world hegemony, the domination of the USSR, an imperialist power, over other peoples."

In 1947, a meeting assembled representatives of the "people's democracies" in Poland, and the Kominform was created to supervise ideological subjugation of the Kremlin's satellites. The next year, it excommunicated Tito for "deviationism."

The smallest of the Balkan countries, Albania, broke with the Soviet Union in 1961, ironically because it accused Soviet leaders of betraying the ideals of Stalin. It remains a virtual hermit state.

Starting with Nikita S. Khrushchev, the Soviets who succeeded Stalin allowed Eastern European countries more leeway in setting domestic policy. But until Gorbachev, they continued to insist on being the final arbiters of Socialist orthodoxy.

This month the Soviets admitted the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia ordered by Leonid I. Brezhnev's Kremlin had been a mistake.

Though thousands of people were reported killed in the struggle between pro-Ceausescu and reform forces in Romania, the Soviets insisted they would not intervene militarily to aid the reformers because of the bitter lessons learned from the past.

East Bloc revolutions force a new world outlook

By Maud Beckman
The Associated Press

THE REVOLUTIONS sweeping Eastern Europe have become revolutions of the mind. Each government that falls makes people worldwide rethink 40 years of competing ideologies and ponder what, if anything, will replace the "cold war."

Filling the vacuum could be new concern about social, economic and environmental issues, historians and sociologists say. But there could also be a resurgence of old conflicts or growing isolationism.

The cold war has "organized the world for us. It's defined friends and foes, burdens and dangers. It's been a very powerful matrix for sorting out all the things that go on in the world. If it's removed the world is bound to look more chaotic," said Michael Mandelbaum, an East-West specialist at the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations.

In addition, "the East-West confrontation has been the centerpiece of foreign policy," Mandelbaum said. "I think what we're facing now is a kind of drought foreign policy with the centre disappearing, and I think it's unclear what will replace the East-West conflict."

Sparted by Mikhail Gorbachev's Soviet reforms, Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, in rapid succession, have begun moving away from traditional Communist systems to greater democracy and market-orientation.

Questions about whether Gorbachev will succeed at home, the

European Common Market of 1992 and possible German reunification add to the complexity and uncertainty for policy-makers.

The post-cold war era will be "more integrated, more motley," said Andrei S. Markovits, a political science professor at Boston University and senior associate at Harvard's Centre for European Studies.

"There won't be good guys, bad guys. There'll be good guys some of the time," he said. "It may make it more complicated. It may make it even unsettling that there will not be clear-cut answers. ... But I think it'll be more thoughtful."

Political parties whose raison d'être was battling Communism or Capitalism will also have to come up with a new argument to appeal to the electorate.

"There'll be more work for philosophers and less for generals, more for economists and less for security specialists," Mandelbaum said.

Many East-West specialists, historians and sociologists portray the post-cold war world as one in which regional conflicts replace global battles of Communism vs. Capitalism; superpower influences diminish as regional power centres grow; alliances change with the issues; isolationist tendencies risk increasing; and world economy and the environment move to the fore.

Patricia Nelson Limerick, a University of Colorado history professor who is herself baffled by the rapid change, believes what's going on in Eastern



Europe presents challenge and risk.

"The opportunity is shifting energy and attention to other concerns — environment, distribution of wealth concerns. The risk is a kind of complacency, now we don't have to care about anything but ourselves. Now we just have to try to get a promotion in our firm or try to get a better VCR."

"But the opportunity I really do think is a great one," she added.

Amid the optimism, there are cautionary notes that the cold war may simply be dormant, that its absence may uncover long-simmering feuds and that sudden changes could be destabilizing.

"It's possible there will be a lot of instability all over the world," said William Schneider, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute.

"You could see all kinds of breakdowns in public order in Europe and elsewhere as Communist systems deteriorate," he said, adding that it could bolster

conservative arguments for military preparedness and intervention.

The absence of a superpower conflict also could unmask historic rivalries in Eastern Europe, said the Romanian-born Markovits.

"The track record pre-1930 was not very good. Countries were fraught with ethnic strife," he said. "There is not one country in Eastern Europe that doesn't have a claim on one of its neighbours."

Robert Lieber, a Georgetown University government professor and East-West specialist, agrees, and says that if the world is witnessing the end of the East-West divide "there is at least a possibility of greater conflict within Eastern Europe, between Hungary and Romania or between Turkey and Bulgaria. And some of those potential conflicts have been held back by Soviet domination of Eastern Europe in the past."

In Lieber's view of the post-cold war era, the United States will remain the only dual econo-

mic and military power. But regional power centres will flourish, such as Western Europe, Japan and East Asia's other rising economic powers, Brazil in Latin America, Nigeria in sub-Saharan Africa, Egypt in the Middle East, India in South Asia, he said.

"So what you're getting is more diversity both at a global level and regionally," Lieber said. "It is likely that cooperation will continue among the industrial democracies, but it's certainly possible there could be at least as much conflict and differences outside that realm... even without superpower involvement."

The new world will be "multipolar," experts say, more complex but less rigid than the "bipolar" one that once dominated.

But while global economy and the environment could take on greater presence as world issues, most agree that nothing will match the cold war in ideological intensity and potential destructiveness.

Whether anything needs to be a subject of debate.

"There is a group of psychologists who would argue there is a fundamental psychological need to have an enemy. And that when one enemy is removed that fundamental psychological need will be expressed in simply a different political direction," said University of California Psychology Professor Philip Tetlock, who studies people's response to political events.

The theory holds that humans have a "certain reservoir of hostility that needs to find a socially acceptable outlet. And people in the mass public take their cues from their leaders about what

constitutes an acceptable target of hostility," said Tetlock. He cited as example the change in American attitudes toward China in the 1970s following U.S. President Richard Nixon's visit, although Chinese policy did not change.

If Americans feel a need to seek out a new enemy, Markovits said, Japan might be "a very likely candidate" because of its economic prowess.

However, Tetlock said "he doesn't think people psychologically need an enemy. 'There's plenty of cultural, economic and political reasons for human beings to come into conflict without positing there is an inherent tendency to be hateful'."

Tetlock also said he wasn't sure humanity needed a "world vision" such as the cold war provides.

"I think people vary actually in the degree to which they need a grand overarching scheme to impose order on their world," he said. "And I'm also not persuaded that the world in the absence of the East-West conflict is going to be as boring and predictable as people might think."

LETTERS

Free the 'Zones'

I wonder who was the source of wisdom who advised that all manufacturing carried out in all free zones located in Jordan do not qualify for a certificate of origin.

How on earth can a manufacturing facility export to a wide range of countries if there is no certificate of origin, which is a must by most importing countries.

One time I called at the Customs Department and asked them if the above was true. The reply I received was to the effect that "if you want a certificate of origin for your products, so that you can export, you must manufacture outside the free zone, in Jordan."

Therefore the free zones of Zarqa and Aqaba are on the moon!

In Dubai where things are normal, a certificate of origin is issued very simply saying "I am All Free Zone, Dubai."

Why is it that there always has to be a problem facing any industrial project to be initiated in Jordan?

If the authorities want the private sector to invest and play a role in the economic development of Jordan, they must be logical and take decisions based on the needs of the business/industrial community, so that the Kingdom may benefit in the long run.

Simplicity and logic will always be the answer to success. I hope sincerely that the concerned authorities do not panic local investors away from Jordan, to seek Dubai as an alternative site.

In all honesty I do hope that you are opening a new page in Jordan for the private sector.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.

Victory Team aims for glory

DUBAI (J.T.) — The third round of the regional powerboat racing season roars back to life in Dubai on Dec. 29 with the Middle East's biggest powerboat race, the Emirates Cup.

The nine-boat Victory Team entered an impressive array of high-powered vessels for the "All Port-sponsored" race and will be looking to repeat the triumph that clinched wins for Victory Team boats in races earlier this season in Dubai and Jordan.

Starting from Mina Seyaha Harbour and organised by the Dubai Marine Club, the race is expected to feature more than 60 boats from all around the Gulf and will be one of the biggest and fastest ever seen in the Middle East. It will be similar in length to this year's Emirates Dubai



Offshore Powerboat Race which was dominated by Victory Team boats.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE RIGHT CARD AT THE RIGHT TIME

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 6 2
♥ K Q 5
♦ 10 8
♣ A Q 10 5 3

EAST
♠ 3 4 3
♥ 10 9 6 4
♦ A Q 2
♣ K 6

SOUTH
♠ K Q 10
♥ A 7 3
♦ K 5 4
♣ J 9 4 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass 5 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Six of ♠

Most of the plays available to declarer can be made by the defense as well. As a corollary, the counter-thrusts that declarer has at his command also can be employed by the defense.

The auction was straight from the old textbook. Since North didn't have diamonds stopped, he made a forcing jump raise in clubs, and South, with a dead minimum and stoppers in the unbid suits, settled for the obvious no trump game.

West led the six of diamonds, taken by East's ace. Declarer held up the king of diamonds until the third round of the suit, then took the club

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS
1. Clasp
2. Mixed groupings
3. Narrow place
4. NY college
5. 100 ft. high
6. Cognizant
7. Small group
8. Clock sound
9. Golf course
10. 100 ft. high
11. Soap
12. "man" — "woman"
13. Slippery one
14. Grip
15. Close by
16. Recipe abbr.
17. Eagle retreat
18. Come upon
19. Ditch
20. Soap
21. Emerald lake
22. Garland
23. Wide stroke
24. Change the color
25. Black face
26. Explosive
27. Sounds
28. Corn on
29. One Fr.
30. Soap
31. Coral island
32. Toward center
33. 100 ft. high
34. Old Roman
35. Ladder section
36. 100 ft. high
37. Treat with
38. 100 ft. high
39. Whig foe
40. 100 ft. high

DOWN
1. Pass
2. Slip
3. 100 ft. high
4. 100 ft. high
5. 100 ft. high
6. 100 ft. high
7. 100 ft. high
8. 100 ft. high
9. 100 ft. high
10. 100 ft. high
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40. 100 ft. high

East German agency to market athletes, coaches

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany created an agency Thursday to handle player and coach exchanges with Western nations, and a leading sports official said he hopes Americans soon will be competing in his country.

The agency will negotiate with Western clubs for the purchase of the services of East German soccer players, cyclists and other athletes, as well as promoting visits by foreign sportsmen to East Germany.

"We must try to bring in money, because we have some sports — like you have in the United States — that can't make money," said Werner Neumann, a member of the secretariat of the East German Sports Federation, known by its initials, DTSB.

Neumann said in an interview at DTSB headquarters that East German athletes will be marketed and sold to the West in exchange for badly needed Western currency.

"Katarina Witt was the forerunner, she did everything on her own," he said of the Olympic figure skating champion who now is a professional skater and aspir-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your mind is logical and sharp today with the New Moon in Capricorn, and you see all kinds of possibilities to achieve success and work out details with close associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You need to discriminate carefully on which social invitations you now accept from friends. Try to establish a better rapport between your family and friends.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consult with an expert friend in an entertainment or cultural activity. Accept invitations with your mate to outside functions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Let a dynamic friend from a distance now become part of your social activities. Coordinate your plans today with the one you love the most.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Matters at home are at a new peak of possible accomplishment. Do something special to show devotion to your attachment.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take interesting friends to delightful places of entertainment. Lots of interesting conditions can take place between you and your attachment now.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Discussions with a successful friend can aid your present financial situation. Be more alert to gaining harmony at home through new methods.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get together with as many friends and companions now, whether close or at a distance. Much excitement will exist between you and your attachment.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get all the information available about a new business venture. A day of much varied activity at your dwelling for you and your friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Accept a special invitation extended to you by an understanding woman. Put more art, colour, beauty and harmony into your home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be dynamic in business, but don't act without considerable investigation. Realise your families need for more money for current expenditures.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be open to receive socially from friends. Invite only the friends who you like personally into your home.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Business and money matters will go more smoothly than usually. Do something very special that you know your attachment will enjoy.

TODAY'S CHILD: If your child were born today he or she will be a positive thinker who doesn't miss anything that is going on in her or his immediate circle. No detail is too small to avoid coming to their attention and they will gather all available fact prior to coming to any decisions.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make your life is largely up to you.

Rush puts Liverpool top

LONDON (R) — Liverpool, making their customary holiday period charge, beat Sheffield Wednesday 2-1 and went to the top of the English soccer first division on Tuesday.

Welsh striker Ian Rush netted the winner from a free kick by substitute Steve Staunton six minutes from time for his 12th goal of the season and 10th in the league.

Arsenal, who kicked off at Southampton two hours earlier, crashed to a 1-0 defeat, allowing Liverpool to go two points clear on 38 points.

Danish international Jan Molby put home team Liverpool ahead after two minutes but Dalian Atkinson equalised five minutes after the break with his 10th goal of the season.

Liverpool were sixth going into the Christmas holiday period last season. They were narrowly beaten for the title by Arsenal in May.

But Liverpool were lucky to win on Tuesday as Sheffield

Modest van Basten strikes again

PARIS (R) — If they gave awards for sporting modesty, Marco van Basten would probably win those too.

After a year in which the elegant Dutch striker won just about everything soccer can offer, he walked off with the Ballon d'Or as European footballer of the year for the second time in succession on Sunday.

Last year at the age of 24, he was the youngest player ever to win the trophy. This time he became only the fifth to retain the title in the 34-year history of the prestigious France football award.

But, typically of a man whose deadly, predatory instincts in front of goal contrast sharply with an unassuming demeanour off the pitch, van Basten's immediate thoughts were of others.

In particular of his Italian team captain at AC Milan Franco Baresi, who came second in the poll, and of his boyhood idol and mentor Johan Cruyff.

"I owe you a lot of thanks," he said to the French organisers as he received the award in Paris. "I owe a lot to AC Milan and its players too. I'm sorry for Franco that he didn't win because he deserved it but I'm happy for me."

Sweeper Baresi was tipped by many to take the award after a year in which he stylishly led AC Milan to the European Cup, the Super Cup and the World Club Cup.

But in the end it was van Basten's breath-taking goal-scoring ability which captured the votes.

His equalising goal in Madrid in the first leg of the European Cup semifinal with Real will long stay in the memory — an "impossible" diving header from outside the penalty area which went in off the bar.

A pulverising shot in the 5-0 massacre of Real during the return in Milan and two more goals in the 4-0 thumping of Steaua Bucharest in the final were also eloquent testimony to van Basten's art.

The Dutchman struck in the first in precisely the way he does better than anyone else — with deft, first-time touches, the first a powerful glancing header and the second a neatly angled left foot shot inside the far post.

Van Basten has never disguised his unfailing admiration for Cruyff, the star of the great Ajax Amsterdam and Dutch sides of the 1970s.

"He was always my idol," he said.



Marco van Basten

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Gorbachev blasts Lithuanian party decision to break away

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev blasted the Lithuanian Communist Party's declaration of independence from Moscow as a bid to play up to Baltic nationalists, TASS said Tuesday.

Despite the Soviet leader's tough criticism at a meeting of the national Communist Party Central Committee Monday, no decisions were made and the party's policy-making body began a second day of meeting Tuesday.

"No part of the Soviet Communist Party has the right to decide the question about its independence existence with its own programme and rules, not taking into account the position of the Soviet Communist Party as a whole," Gorbachev said. "And this means that the Communist Party of Lithuania was and remains a part of the united Soviet Communist Party."

TASS, in a report on the first day of the Central Committee meeting, said Gorbachev accused the leaders of the Lithuanian party as having "gone over to playing up to nationalist, separatist forces."

Gorbachev tried for several

months to head off the split that the Lithuanian party declared in Vilnius on Dec. 20, and at the Congress of People's Deputies meeting in Moscow Saturday lashed out at separatists.

"Today, to realise the right to self-determination through secession means to blow up the union, set the people against each other and sow conflict and blood and death," Gorbachev said. "That's what separatists are pushing us toward."

He also told the Central Committee that the Soviet government should consider the legal status of public movements that are "carrying out separatist activities and whipping up nationalist terror."

Gorbachev did not identify any such organisations, but in the context of the debate he likely was referring to Lithuania's Sąjūdis and other organisations pushing for sovereignty.

It was an indication of the

seriousness with which the Lithuanian move last week is being taken in Moscow. It represents the first break in Soviet party ranks since the 1917 revolution.

The debate appears to have pitted advocates of greater autonomy from Moscow against conservatives who view the Lithuanian decision as a threat to stability.

Apart from Gorbachev, the meeting was addressed by party leaders from the country's 15 republics.

Among those taking part in the debate were Brazauskas — named to head the independent Lithuanian party — as well as the party leaders in the other two Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia, both proponents of autonomy.

But other speakers — including the party chiefs of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine — were likely to have denounced the measure.

Yegor Ligachev, the ruling politburo's most prominent conservative, and chief party ideologist Vadim Medvedev were also certain to have been critical.

Edvardas Potasiunas, an editor of Lithuanian television, said a commission that had been formed by the Central Committee to work out the problem included Brazauskas and several other Lithuanian Communists.

He added that a rally in support of the Lithuanian party's position was scheduled for Tuesday afternoon in the Cathedral Square of Vilnius.

Lithuanian party leader Algirdas Brazauskas, in an interview with the Interfax news service published Tuesday, defended the Lithuanian party's decision as a "step toward renewal of the party."

Brazauskas and other Lithuanian party leaders maintain that the Soviet leader has shown understanding of their move.

A heated debate has broken out in the party's Central Committee over the decision by Communists in Lithuania.

Tough talking between liberals and conservatives went on throughout the day on Monday and the committee decided to extend its session for another day.

150 outlawed Tamil militiamen surrender to Sri Lankan army

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — More than 150 members of an outlawed Tamil militia surrendered to the Sri Lankan army after 44 of their comrades were killed by rival Tamil guerrillas, military officials said Tuesday.

A bedraggled Tamil National Army band walked into an army camp in the Polonnaruwa district 165 kilometres north east of Colombo Monday, a few hours after they were attacked by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the officials said.

The group of 155 militiamen was taken into protective custody by Sri Lankan government troops camped at Nidamwela, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The military officials in Colombo said the militiamen who surrendered Monday brought with them an array of weapons, including 83 Soviet-designed AK47 assault rifles, a light machine gun, four submachine guns, five mortars and two launchers, five hand grenades and a large amount of ammunition.

The Sri Lankan government,

with Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne serving as chief accuser, has alleged that India helped create the Tamil National Army to protect pro-Indian Tamils.

The Indian force started arriving in Sri Lanka on July 30, 1987, under an accord President Ransinghe Premadasa's predecessor, President Junius R. Jayewardene, signed with India in an effort to settle the Tamil insurrection.

But the Tigers promptly reneged on the accord and started attacking the Indians who were supposed to oversee a surrender of arms.

The Tigers this year opened negotiations with Premadasa's government to enter the political mainstream, but also stepped up their attacks in a power struggle with Indian-supported rival Tamils. Four weeks ago they ousted the Tamil National Army from the major east coast town of Batticaloa, killing at least 100 militiamen in the process.

The Sri Lankan army, which according to Wijeratne is 99 per cent Sinhalese, has generally

stayed out of the fray. Wijeratne and other officials said they did not want the majority ethnic group to be accused of killing minority Tamils. But the army offered protection to any Tamil militiamen who surrendered with or without their weapons.

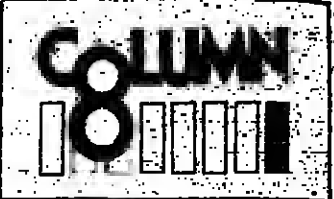
India, under former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, agreed in September to withdraw the last of its troops by Dec. 31. But the government of Gandhi's successor, V.P. Singh, has said it was unlikely to meet that deadline.

An estimated 25,000 Indian soldiers remain in Sri Lanka, down from a peak of about 100,000.

India got involved in the internal problems of its small island neighbour at the prodding of its own Tamil minority of 60 million.

In Sri Lanka, Tamils make up 18 per cent of the island's 16 million people. Sinhalese comprise 75 per cent.

The Tamil revolt has claimed at least 11,000 lives since it started in 1983. Tamil militiamen sought to establish a separate nation or homeland for their minority in the northeast.



Same birthday card for 50 years

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan (AP) — Milton Halverson has sent the same birthday card to his longtime pal Arlen Carlson for 50 years. And she sends it right back. Mended over the years by strips of transparent tape now yellow and brittle, the card is the kind that could put a greeting card company out of business. Known as a "thrifty card," it features a piece of glazed paper on which the giver writes his or her name in pencil. The idea is explained in a Scottish verse inside that ends, "ye can just wash up my name, write in your own eye, see: Then when my birthday comes around, ye can send it back tae me." "And that's what we've been doing for the past 50 years," said Halverson, who mailed the card for the 100th time. Carlson, who will soon turn 72, has been friends with Halverson since the two grew up together in Amery, Wisconsin, where Carlson still lives. She remembers buying the card in a drugstore for 5 cents, and mailing it for 2 cents. Halverson first received the card when he was 10.

Cruise doesn't work for the cash

NEW YORK (AP) — Tom Cruise, although familiar with the Colour of Money, says he's never done a film just for the cash. "I don't know how many times I have to say this, but having clout in the business has never been a huge concern on mine," Cruise said in an interview. "And I have never done a film for money. That's not what acting is for me. I love doing it, and I want to try different things," said Cruise, who co-starred with Dustin Hoffman in Rain Man and Paul Newman in the Colour of Money. His most recent different thing: The role of disabled Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic in the just-released Born on the Fourth of July. Cruise said he ignored the advice of studio executives and others who felt he should steer clear of the role. "People want to limit things," Cruise said. "They say, 'God, you're going to lose everything.' Aren't you afraid?" Somewhere I guess you want to find out, how far can I fall? How deep is the well? When am I going to hit? I want to know that."

Decline of English language

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles used Shakespeare's Hamlet to illustrate the decline of the English language, bemoaning what he called impoverished, sloppy banalities and clichés. The prince said English had been the medium for some of the greatest literature in the world, including that of William Shakespeare. But he said the state of modern English led him to wonder how Shakespeare's Hamlet would have delivered his famous "to be or not to be" soliloquy in today's language. In act III, scene I of Hamlet, the protagonist says: "To be, or not to be: that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, Or to take arms against a sea of troubles, And by opposing end them? Here is Prince Charles' version of how the soliloquy would be written in today's English: Well, frankly, the problem as I see it: At this moment in time is whether I Should just lie down under all this hassle. And let them walk all over me. Or, whether I should just say: 'OK. I get the message,' and do myself in."

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	05	41	48
ATHENS	04	39	10
BANGKOK	22	31	21
Buenos Aires	10	17	32
CAIRO	08	18	05
CHICAGO	-10	14	25
COPENHAGEN	-04	27	05
FRANKFURT	-04	27	05
GOSIA	-25	-12	11
HONGKONG	17	23	04
ISTANBUL	03	37	04
LONDON	08	11	05
LOS ANGELES	15	27	01
MADRID	02	36	12
MECCA	20	35	05
MONTREAL	-25	-12	11
MOSCOW	-04	25	01
NEW DELHI	08	18	04
NEW YORK	-10	14	25
PARIS	04	11	05
ROME	09	13	05
SYDNEY	22	31	05
TOKYO	07	15	04
VIENNA	04	11	05

°M - indicates missing information

3 killed in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Two men and a woman burned to death in Christmas Day violence in South Africa's Natal province, a police report said Tuesday.

The incident occurred in a black township where a mob threw petrol bombs at a group of houses, the report said, without giving details.

About 2,000 people have died in the past three years in Natal province, where rival black groups are fighting for control of the townships.

In a clash over the town of George, in Cape Province, police fired stun grenades, tear gas and birdshot to disperse a group of stone-throwing blacks, the report said.

Two policemen were injured. Meanwhile jailed black leader Nelson Mandela spent his 28th and probably last Christmas in prison, opening presents and sharing a quiet dinner with six family members.

Mandela's wife Winnie, their daughter Zindzi, her three children, and another relative visited Mandela for six hours at the comfortable three-bedroom house where he is held at Victor Verster Prison outside Cape Town.

"He would have loved to spend

Christmas at home with us," said Mrs. Mandela, who had tears in her eyes when she spoke to journalists afterward. "He would have loved to go today, but his release is not in his hands."

"He regrets to advise that he has no new information whatsoever about his release," she added. "As far as he knows, there have been no further developments that point to his immediate release."

She said telling the grandchildren, ages nine, six and less than one year, that their grandfather could not leave with them was "particularly painful."

The family brought a cake with icing in the green, gold and black colours of the African National Congress (ANC), the outlawed guerrilla movement Mandela heads.

They gave Mandela shirts from a Johannesburg tailor who made suits for seven of Mandela's colleagues released from prison in October.

The family planned another visit before returning to their home in Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg.

Mandela, 71, is the country's best known black leader and the world's most famous prisoner. He has been jailed since 1962 and is serving a life sentence for plotting

to sabotage the government.

His release is widely expected within weeks, and there was speculation he might be freed around Christmas Day. However, the government quashed rumours Friday in a statement that said Mandela would not be freed this year.

Mandela has had a steady stream of visitors in recent months, ranging from anti-apartheid activists to government leaders. He met on Dec. 13 with President F.W. de Klerk at the presidential offices.

The freeing of the seven ANC leaders was seen as a trial run for Mandela's release. The seven, who have been active in promoting their movement since their release, were to have Christmas dinner at the Johannesburg home of Helen Joseph, an 84-year-old white activist.

Ms. Joseph, one of Mandela's co-defendants at a 1956-61 treason trial, visited Mandela Thursday. It was their first meeting in 28 years.

The Mandelas have another daughter, Zeni, who is married and studying in the United States.

Mandela also has a son and a daughter from his first marriage, which ended in divorce. Another son from that marriage was killed in a traffic accident.

China claims Mao revival

PEKING (AP) — China marked the 96th birthday of Mao Tse-tung Tuesday amid official claims that young people disillusioned with Western philosophies are rediscovering truth in the works of the late "great helmsman."

The official press says there is a quiet resurgence of interest in Mao, the father of Communist China. Since his death in 1976, Mao also has been blamed for bringing great suffering to China with his radical policies.

Shanghai's Wen Hui daily said that college students, after traveling the "winding road" of fascination with Western thought, "have returned to our forebears to ask for advice. ... Is this not a good omen?"

The implication is that college students, after the government's bloody suppression of their pro-democracy movement this spring and months of heavy political indoctrination, now realise that Mao and Marx had the right ideas all along.

China said Monday it has arrested five Hong Kong and Macao residents on charges of trying to smuggle dissidents out of the country.

It also accused a Hong Kong group that demands democratic reform in China of running an "underground railroad" by which dozens of dissidents have fled abroad since the army crackdown on pro-democracy protests in June.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted police as saying the arrests "dealt a major blow to the overseas reactionary forces who attempted to use Hong Kong and Macao as sanctuaries for criminals."

China has said repeatedly it will not allow residents of Hong Kong and Macao to interfere in mainland affairs, but this was the first time it explicitly accused the Hong Kong alliance for supporting the democratic movement in China of running the underground railroad.

The alliance was founded after the June crackdown, which increased anxiety in British-ruled Hong Kong and Portuguese-ruled Macao about their return to Chinese dominion in the coming decade.

The five arrests were made over the past three months, and Xinhua did not say why they were not announced earlier.

Anti-biological arms legislation makes progress in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — Twenty years after former President Richard Nixon ordered the destruction of the U.S. stockpile of biological weapons, the government is on the verge of making development and possession of the weapons illegal.

Nixon's directive met with little resistance and the United States joined the Soviet Union and 109 other countries in signing a 1972 pact to prohibit production and possession of the weapons. But efforts to incorporate the treaty's provisions into U.S. law have failed until this year.

Scientists, defence analysts and lawmakers credit the changing atmosphere for arms control agreements and the work of a freshman Senator from Wisconsin.

He is Democratic Sen. Herbert Kohl, who with the help of a longtime opponent of biological and chemical weapons, Sen. David Pryor, convinced the Justice Department and the full Senate to support the Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989.

In the waning hours of the congressional session on Nov. 21,

the Senate approved the legislation by voice vote. The required House passage and presidential approval appear likely early next year.

"By approving the legislation, the Senate has signalled the world that the United States is serious about controlling these abominable creations," Kohl said on a Senate floor.

By definition, biological weapons are a form of bacteria, virus, fungus or naturally occurring toxin. A biological weapon could be unleashed on an unsuspecting public by using it in a liquid to contaminate water or in an aerosol that is dropped by bomb.

In 1925, the Geneva Protocol banned the first use in war of biological and chemical weapons, but did not address the development, production, possession or transfer of the weapons.

Forty-four years later, Nixon ordered the Defence Department to destroy its arsenal of biological weapons. The United States then spearheaded the fight for an international ban on production and possession of the weapons.

On April 10, 1972, in Washington, Moscow and London, 111 countries signed the biological weapons convention.

The Senate ratified the treaty two years later.

According to the pact, each nation must take "any necessary measures" to prohibit biological weapons at home. Legislation was introduced in Congress over the years to include the prohibition in U.S. law, but the measures never got far.

The measure's purpose is twofold. It implements the 1972 biological weapons convention and seeks to protect the United States against the threat of biological terrorism.

"The legislation would prohibit the possession or development of germ warfare devices and authorise the punishment of those who attempt to help foreign nations acquire such weapons," the bill says.

Kohl believes final congressional approval and Bush's signature would strengthen the United States' hand in demanding that all countries comply with the 1972 treaty.

Bucharest marks Christmas Day with celebration, warfare

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian capital marked Christmas Day with a mixture of traditional celebration, angry protests and guerrilla warfare.

Passers-by on the city's wide streets dodged sniper fire and speeding army trucks as they hurried to buy mistletoe at the central market or rushed off to mass.

Others placed Christmas trees, complete with ornaments, at the makeshift shrines they have put up to mark those who fell in bloody street fighting.

The National Salvation Front (NSF) now ruling Romania had announced a 5 p.m. (1500 GMT) deadline for all but army troops to hand in weapons.

But as it passed, resistance by the Securitate secret police of fallen dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was not wholly quelled in the capital, and even less so in Timisoara, the western town where the Romanian revolution began.

"They (the Securitate) are criminals, fanatics. They have nowhere to go and nothing to lose," said Timisoara resident Adrian Chinkovici. "But we want to capture them alive because only they know where all these arms are kept."

"They'll be killed, executed — like the Ceausescus," said Chinkovici's father Cyprian, drawing his hand across his throat.

At a packed Christmas mass in Bucharest, Romanian Orthodox Patriarch Teoctist Arapaeu hailed the liberation movement.

"Let us pray for these brave young people, these young boys and girls who have died for freedom. They will live forever in our hearts and minds."

But the patriarch, whose church was often a willing organ of state power under Ceausescu, also struck an apologetic note.

"In the past 25 years we have been through shocking moments and I did not have the courage the youth has shown," said the leader of Romania's 16 million he-leviers.

Brandy and bread, traditional commemoration of the dead, stood on a table to one side during the mass.

Victor Ciobanu, health minister in the fallen Ceausescu regime but a supporter of the front, said 500 people had been killed in Bucharest and 2,000 hurt in the last four days. He said "thousands" had died across Romania but offered no details.

He rejected a report broadcast by Hungarian radio that 70,000 to 80,000 people had been killed in Romania since the first outbreak of shooting in Timisoara little more than a week ago.

In the city centre, the people have reclaimed the streets. Open lorries crammed with young people waving national flags — the hated Communist emblem ripped from their centres — cruise the boulevards. Old women sweep up shards of broken window panes.

Technicians have begun repairing street lamps and some city buses are running.

Crowds rush by, singing out: "Ceausescu is no more." The frequent road hiccups have been dismantled and scattered car traffic has returned. Many pedestrians stroll arm in arm.

In the central square, where the secret police headquarters has been reduced to a burned-out hulk, army tank crews relax with newspapers and cigarettes.

The army, which last week unleashed its tanks and guns on a rising populace, has firmly switched sides and is now the main bulwark against violent terror.

The army's command has put itself under the National Salvation Front at least for now.

But it remains unclear how well-equipped the forces are against the highly-trained Securitate.

"They are desperate and fanatical," said Bucharest resident Mircea Hranovschi. "The main question is when are we going to get rid of these crazy people?"

Hranovschi, an economist by training, said the remnants of the palace guard appeared to be in loose contact, passing intelligence and ammunition on the sly. "That's why we must search every car, every person."

As he spoke, police tried unsuccessfully to flush hidden snipers from a fashion institute across the street.

It is the very mobility of these commandos that has prolonged the fighting. Tales of a complex of secret tunnels that the snipers use add to the terror in the streets.

Late Monday morning the army moved in and captured the mayor of Bucharest, Barbu Petrescu, brother of Ceausescu's despised wife Elena.

Crowds banged on the sides of the armoured personnel carrier which held Petrescu while others danced in the streets with joy.

"Assassins, assassins," they called out, loudly booing the former mayor as the army carried him off.

Not all operations have gone so smoothly. Fighting continued around the international airport and shots were reported at the northern railway station.

Commandos also tried to sabotage the power plant serving much of the city's press, including the Romanian News Service Agency.

The press agency reported a night-time attack by "commando troops" on the city's Steaua Maternity Hospital, forcing patients and doctors to seek refuge in the building's basement.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Ceausescu's 'poet' nearly lynching
BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Adrian Păunescu, a poet who repeatedly described Nicolae Ceausescu as "the most beloved son of the Romanian people," was saved by the army Monday when a crowd wanted to lynch him. Păunescu for years was responsible for running "song to Romania," a festival of music and poetry that glorified Ceausescu and his wife Elena, Romania's deposed rulers. Before state radio and television announced the secret trial and execution of the Ceausescus Monday, Păunescu tried to take refuge at the U.S. embassy in Bucharest, but was turned away at the door, witnesses said. An angry crowd gathered around the poet and tried to lynch him, but army officers intervened and took him away. Păunescu, who owns a 10-room Bucharest villa complete with a swimming pool and sauna, was long considered Ceausescu's court poet.

Irish playwright dies
PARIS (AP) — Samuel Beckett, the Nobel-Prize winning playwright, poet and novelist of everlasting despair, has died at the age of 83, his publisher said Tuesday. Beckett, whose work depicted death and decay as mankind's sole and inescapable destiny, was buried Tuesday morning at the Montparnasse

Cemetery in a private ceremony, said publisher Jerome Linden. The playwright died Friday in Paris of respiratory failure, Linden said. The Irish-born author of Waiting for Godot and Endgame described a stark world of vagabond couples trapped by an apocalyptic sense of doom and caught in a never-ending, master-slave dialectic often laced with wry humour. "There are no landmarks in my work," he once said. "We are all adrift. We must invent a world in which to survive, but even this invented world is pervaded by fear and guilt. Our existence is hopeless."

Greek deputy escapes injury in blast
ATHENS (AP) — A controversial Socialist deputy and publisher escaped injury Tuesday when his motor car was blown up outside his home, police said. They said that an explosion caused by dynamite destroyed Makis Kouris' car only minutes after he parked it outside his suburban home at 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) but that no one was injured. No one has claimed responsibility for the blast. A police official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that police did not suspect any of Greece's three well-known urban guerrilla organisations of involvement in the attack. Kouris and his brother, George, own three political dailies and a radio station. He was elected to parliament in June and November this year.